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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,852	06/14/2005	Christian Giovalle	GIOVALLE2	5749

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EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/538,852	Applicant(s) GIOVALLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Ismael Izaguirre	Art Unit 3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
  - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
      - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***SPECIFICATION***

#### ***Headings***

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
  - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
  - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

### ***CLAIMS***

#### ***Summary***

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-9 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fauveau (1,016,226).

Fauveau teaches a pressing iron having water reservoir (within casing 1) provided with a filling opening 8 located on the rear face of the iron where the reservoir is filled by holding the iron rocked forward. The reservoir communicates with a drip valve (at 23) located at the front of the iron. The drip valve feeds water in a drop-by-drop fashion to a steam-producing chamber 24 where the steam escapes through apertures 21 in the soleplate and onto the article being ironed. The drip valve communicates with the reservoir by a canalization 6 opening near the rear of the reservoir at a lowest level to the reservoir.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Biancalani (5,398,434).

Biancalani teaches a pressing iron having first water reservoir 17 and a second reservoir 27 provided with a filling opening 27 located on the rear face of the iron where the reservoir is filled by holding the iron rocked forward. The reservoir communicates with a drip valve 37 located at the front of the iron. The drip valve feeds water in a drop-by-drop fashion to a steam-producing chamber 5 where the steam escapes through apertures 1F in the soleplate and onto the article being ironed. The drip valve communicates with the reservoir by a canalization 17, 27 opening near the rear of the reservoir 19 at a lower level to the reservoir.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fauveau in view of Morton (2,387,281).

Fauveau discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Fauveau teaches a steam iron including a reservoir located at the rear of the iron. A filling opening 8 is provided for filling the reservoir with water as needed. However, Fauveau does not suggest the filling opening as including a prolonged portion extending into the reservoir by a sleeve, which includes a reserve of air during filling of the opening.

Morton teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 15 provided with a filling opening at 19 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber 38, 39 below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop into a heated vaporization chamber by a valve 58. The filling opening is formed at the rear of the iron and includes a sleeve 16, which extends from the filling cap 19 to the interior of the reservoir. The extension of the filling tube enables a reserve of air within the sleeve from the cap to the plane of the reservoir wall 33 during the filling of the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the water inlet of Fauveau as including an extending sleeve with air reserve. Providing such an arrangement would allow the balanced flow of water towards the drip valve due to the balanced pressure on the water.

Claims 1-3,5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Augustine et al. (4,398,364) in view of Morton (2,387,281).

Augustine et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Augustine et al. teach a steam iron including a reservoir for storing water usable in generating steam. A drip valve (at 112) is provided for feeding the water drop by drop to a steam-generating chamber 38. Water is fed to the drip valve through a canalization 186, 196 which extends from the exit at the valve to the lowermost rear point in the reservoir where the inlet is located. A wall 194 is provided with fluid connections 198 for allowing water to be pooled beyond the wall and at the canalization inlet. A filling opening 86 is provided for filling the reservoir with water as needed. However, Augustine et al. do not suggest the filling opening being located at the rear of the iron and as including a prolonged portion extending into the reservoir by a sleeve, which includes a reserve of air during filling of the opening.

Morton teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 15 provided with a filling opening at 19 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber 38, 39 below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop into a heated vaporization chamber by a valve 58. The filling opening is formed at the rear of the iron and includes a sleeve 16, which extends from the filling cap 19 to the interior of

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the reservoir. The extension of the filling tube enables a reserve of air within the sleeve from the cap to the plane of the reservoir wall 33 during the filling of the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the water inlet of Augustine et al. as including a reservoir opening at the rear of the iron and an extending sleeve with air reserve. Providing such an arrangement would allow a less complicated/ crowded front surface and housing mold at the front of the iron and the balanced flow of water towards the drip valve due to the balanced pressure on the water due to the air reserve.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Augustine et al., as modified by Morton, in view of Kueser (3,418,736).

Augustine et al., as modified by Morton, disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Augustine et al. teach a steam iron including a reservoir for storing water usable in generating steam. A drip valve is provided for feeding the water drop by drop to a steam-generating chamber. Water is fed to the drip valve through a canalization, which extends from the exit at the valve to the lowermost rear point in the reservoir where the inlet is located. A wall is provided with fluid connections for allowing water to be pooled beyond the wall and at the canalization inlet. A filling opening 86 is provided for filling the reservoir with water as needed. The filling opening is vented and open to the atmosphere for allowing a balance of pressure in the reservoir. However, Augustine et al. do not suggest a vent circuit opening into the rear of the reservoir and ending at the upper front part of the iron in contact with the surrounding air.

Kueser teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 50 provided with a filling opening 24 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop into the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 32. The reservoir comprises a vent circuit including a pipe 40 with one end connected to the reservoir and the other connected to a buffer chamber 28, which is itself vented to the atmosphere. The vent circuit includes a hollow element 42 with a larger end portion shaped like a bell and extending downwardly into the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the water inlet of Augustine et al., as modified by Morton, as including a vent circuit including a tubing with a bell shaped element opening into the reservoir and ending at the upper front buffer chamber open to the atmosphere. Providing such an arrangement would allow a proper venting of the reservoir improving the balanced flow of water towards the drip valve due to the balanced pressure on the water.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debourg et al. (5,743,034) in view of Morton (2,387,281).

Debourg et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Debourg et al. teach a steam iron including a reservoir 30 for storing water usable in generating steam. A drip valve 36 is provided for feeding the water drop by drop to a steam-generating chamber 26. Water is fed to the drip valve through a canalization 44, which extends from the exit at the valve to the lowermost rear point in the reservoir where the inlet is



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located. A wall 34 is provided for allowing water to be pooled beyond the wall and at the canalization inlet 40. A filling opening 32 is provided for filling the reservoir with water as needed. However, Debourg et al. do not suggest the filling opening being located at the rear of the iron and as including a prolonged portion extending into the reservoir by a sleeve, which includes a reserve of air during filling of the opening.

Morton teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 15 provided with a filling opening at 19 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber 38, 39 below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop into a heated vaporization chamber by a valve 58. The filling opening is formed at the rear of the iron and includes a sleeve 16, which extends from the filling cap 19 to the interior of the reservoir. The extension of the filling tube enables a reserve of air within the sleeve from the cap to the plane of the reservoir wall 33 during the filling of the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the water inlet of Debourg et al. as including a reservoir opening at the rear of the iron and an extending sleeve with air reserve. Providing such an arrangement would allow a less complicated/ crowded front surface and housing mold at the front of the iron and the balanced flow of water towards the drip valve due to the balanced pressure on the water due to the air reserve.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debourg et al., as modified by Morton, in view of Kueser (3,418,736).

Debourg et al., as modified by Morton, disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Debourg et al. teach a steam iron including a reservoir for storing water usable

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in generating steam. A drip valve is provided for feeding the water drop by drop to a steam-generating chamber. Water is fed to the drip valve through a canalization, which extends from the exit at the valve to the lowermost rear point in the reservoir where the inlet is located. A wall is provided for allowing water to be pooled beyond the wall and at the canalization inlet. A filling opening is provided for filling the reservoir with water as needed. The filling opening is vented and open to the atmosphere for allowing a balance of pressure in the reservoir. However, Debourg et al. do not suggest a vent circuit opening into the rear of the reservoir and ending at the upper front part of the iron in contact with the surrounding air.

Kueser teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 50 provided with a filling opening 24 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop into the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 32. The reservoir comprises a vent circuit including a pipe 40 with one end connected to the reservoir and the other connected to a buffer chamber 28, which is itself vented to the atmosphere. The vent circuit includes a hollow element 42 with a larger end portion shaped like a bell and extending downwardly into the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the water inlet of Debourg, as modified by Morton, as including a vent circuit including a tubing with a bell shaped element opening into the reservoir and ending at the upper front buffer chamber open to the atmosphere.

Providing such an arrangement would allow a proper venting of the reservoir improving

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the balanced flow of water towards the drip valve due to the balanced pressure on the water.

#### ***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***PERTINENT CITATIONS***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Valente et al. (Figure 7, includes rear inlet), Daulasim et al., Brandolini et al., Watkins and Gronwick et al. Illustrate reservoirs with canalizations opening to the rear of the reservoirs.

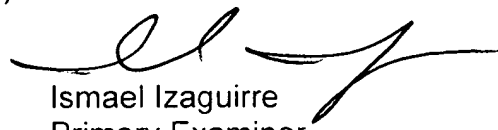
#### ***INQUIRIES***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ismael Izaguirre  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3765

II  
2/8/06